



NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
NEW MEXICO FIELD OFFICE

2507 North Telshor Blvd, Las Cruces, NM 88011
Cooperating with the New Mexico Department of Agriculture



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Contact: Longino Bustillos
(800) 530-8810

CROP PRODUCTION – OCTOBER 2015

NEW MEXICO HIGHLIGHTS

Based on October 1 conditions, **sorghum** production in 2015 is forecast at 2.88 million bushels, according to the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. This forecast is up 14 percent from the 2.52 million bushels harvested last year. Growers expect to harvest 64,000 acres this year, up from the 60,000 acres harvested last year. Average yield is forecast at 45.0 bushels per acre, down 5.0 bushels from the September 1 forecast but up 3.0 bushels from last year. As of September 27, New Mexico's sorghum crop condition was rated 1 percent poor, 10 percent fair, 84 percent good, and 5 percent excellent. Sorghum mature was estimated at 12 percent complete, compared with 9 percent last year and the 5-year average of 6 percent.

Peanut production is forecast at 15.50 million pounds, down 2 percent from the 15.75 million pounds produced in 2014. Growers expect to harvest 5,000 acres this year, compared with 4,500 acres a year ago. Yields are expected to average 3,100 pounds per acre, up 100 pounds from the September 1 forecast and down 400 pounds from last year. As of September 27, New Mexico's peanut crop condition was rated 69 percent fair, 28 percent good, and 3 percent excellent.

All cotton production in New Mexico is expected to total 81,000 480-lb bales, up 14 percent from the September 1 forecast and up 12 percent from last year's crop. **Upland cotton** harvested acreage is forecast at 30,000 acres, down 3,000 acres from last year. As of October 1, producers expect to harvest 65,000 480-lb bales of upland cotton, up 2 percent from last year. Upland yield is forecast at 1,040 pounds per acre, up 160 pounds from the September 1 forecast and up 109 pounds from last year. As of September 27, 68 percent of the upland cotton crop had bolls opening, compared with 47 percent last year and 59 percent for the 5-year average. The cotton crop was rated 3 percent poor, 23 percent fair, 64 percent good, and 10 percent excellent as of September 27. **Pima cotton** harvested acreage is estimated at 7,300 acres, up 2,000 acres from last year. As of October 1, producers expect to harvest 16,000 480-lb bales of Pima cotton, compared with 8,400 bales last year. Pima yield is forecast at 1,052 pounds per acre, unchanged from the September 1 forecast and up 291 pounds from last year.

New Mexico farmers and ranchers expect to harvest 220,000 acres of **alfalfa hay** this year, up 10,000 acres from 2014. Alfalfa production is forecast at 1.10 million tons, up 9 percent from the 1.01 million tons produced in 2014 and up 6 percent from the August forecast. Alfalfa hay yield is expected to average 5.00 tons per acre, compared to last year's yield of 4.80 tons per acre and the August forecast of 4.70 tons per acre.

Pecan production in New Mexico is forecast at 72.0 million pounds, up 7 percent from the 2014 season.

UNITED STATES HIGHLIGHTS

Sorghum production is forecast at 574 million bushels, down slightly from last month but up 33 percent from last year. Acreage updates were made in several States following a thorough review of all available data. Planted area, at 8.65 million acres, is down 1 percent from the previous estimate but up 21 percent from last year. Area harvested for grain is forecast at 7.65 million acres, down slightly from the September forecast but up 19 percent from 2014. Based on October 1 conditions, yield is forecast at a record 75.0 bushels per acre, up 0.1 bushel from last month and up 7.4 bushels from last year.

Peanut production is forecast at 6.32 billion pounds, up slightly from the September forecast and up 22 percent from last year's revised production of 5.19 billion pounds. Area for harvest is expected to total 1.58 million acres, unchanged from September but 20 percent higher than 2014. Based on conditions as of October 1, the average yield for the United States is forecast at 3,997 pounds per acre, up 1 pound per acre from the September forecast and 74 pounds per acre above the revised 2014 average yield of 3,923 pounds per acre.

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All cotton production is forecast at 13.3 million 480-pound bales, down less than one percent from last month and down 18 percent from last year. Yield is expected to average 784 pounds per harvested acre, down 54 pounds from last year. **Upland cotton** production is forecast at 12.9 million 480-pound bales, down 18 percent from 2014. **Pima cotton** production, forecast at 451,000 bales, was carried forward from last month.

Production of **alfalfa and alfalfa mixture** dry hay for 2015 is forecast at 63.2 million tons, up 2 percent from the August forecast and up 3 percent from 2014. Based on October 1 conditions, yield is expected to average 3.45 tons per acre, up 0.06 ton from August and up 0.12 ton from last year. Harvested area is forecast at 18.3 million acres, unchanged from August, but down less than 1 percent from 2014.

Pecan production is forecast at 272 million pounds (utilized, in-shell basis), up 3 percent from 2014. Improved varieties are expected to produce 228 million pounds or 84 percent of the total. The native and seedling varieties are expected to produce 44.4 million pounds, making up the remaining 16 percent of production.

For a full copy of the *Crop Production* report please visit www.nass.usda.gov.